4/29/69

Your 4/25, in haste (a crazy, mixed-up, non-productive day with nothing but a pretty face to relieve it until 2 p.m.)

I do regard this thing as very important, not potentially but actually, in its present state. My own taste runs to the more comprehensible, which is why I focused on the clip part. And it is of such a nature that it must be done patiently. If a fair part of what we have between us does not hold up, with care we can detect and discard it, making what remains stronger. We can give up half and still have very much. Recall I suggested combining the trajectory bit with the shells? When it is done we can engaged the advocacy of a few good devils with the kind of knowledge required.

Of course you can stay here. If you can come in May (is school over then?), perhaps by then you will have what you want on paper and we can birddog. I can postpone the range tests (agreed to by the range officer who will try and break down) and the Archives until then.

The greatest merit of this aspect is that it can be almost 100% graphic. This is why I bought a duplicate of the rifle, etc. That makes for comprehensibility. It also lends itself to the angling as not just another assassination story.

Let the politician angle wait. It may not materialize. The Commissioner has other problems. He is now closer to wondering how he will be remembered.

I have no personal knowledge of Braverman, merely read his article and know Garrison had apparently friendly contact.

There should be no checking until the work is finished. At that time the position of the checker may be different. The relationship with him (them) will be different, for sure.

I'll put this with the outgoing mail now and send it in the a.m.

Meanwhile, think of this: we know there was a falsification of Oswald at the Sportsdrome. We also know this counterfeiter picked up the casings. If he was part of the frame, he had empty casing to plant. Why, then, use shells in which only the primer had been set off? One of the things this suggests, is that there was more than one frame going. Another is that there may have been a special purpose, such as having for a defense in court irrefutable proof that those casings had not been picked up at Sportsdrome. I have not thought it all the way through. We may not be in a position to ignore it. Also, perhaps you have read the documents, but in "The Number of Shots" in WHITEWASH I refer to the Dallas investigation that aborted when the FBI found reloaded ammo. We now know much more than I did then. I haven't time to go over these now. If you haven't recently, one of us should. There may be more than I then understood or detected. Also bear in mind that there is absolutely no evidence connecting Oswald with the rifle at the time of the murder. The only evidence connecting him with it at all is dual: the handwriting testimony, which does not inspire confidence, and the palmprint, which has its own dubious history, part of which I have gone into. Some is unpublished. Day would not give the FBI a second statement when they went back for it and the FBI found no evidence he had lifted the print. It is a lift, not the print on the rifle, that exists, and that is a lifted print, which could have been made. In any event, it was old. In my own thinking, I would consider this the "Oswald" rifle, not Oswald's. That is not established.

If you give me a tentative schedule about a week in advance, I'll make the necessary arrangements.